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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for preventing theft in automotive vehicle service centers comprising:  
a transmitter configured to transmit a wireless security signal which defines a perimeter;  
at least one ~~portable tool~~battery tester for use in the automotive vehicle service centers comprising:  
a receiver configured to receive the transmitted security signal; and  
security circuitry coupled to the receiver and configured to disable the ~~portable tool~~battery  
tester if the ~~tool~~battery tester is outside the perimeter defined by the security  
signal.
2. (canceled)
3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the security signal comprises one of a diffused infrared  
signal and a radio frequency signal.
4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the radio frequency signal of the transmitter and the  
receiver incorporate a Bluetooth protocol.
5. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the radio frequency signal of the transmitter and the  
receiver incorporate an 802.11b protocol.
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the perimeter of the security signal is defined by a  
predetermined signal strength.
7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the ~~portable tool~~battery tester is outside the  
perimeter if the security signal is less than the predetermined signal strength.
8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the security circuitry is configured to disable  
the ~~portable tool~~battery tester if a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the ~~portable tool~~battery  
tester was outside the perimeter defined by the security signal.

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9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~portable-tool~~battery tester further comprises an output operably coupled to the security circuitry, wherein the security circuitry is further configured to output a continuous audible noise if the ~~tool-battery tester~~ is outside the perimeter defined by the security signal.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~portable-tool~~battery tester further comprises a tool transmitter operably coupled to the security circuitry and configured to transmit a theft signal if the ~~tool-battery tester~~ is outside the perimeter defined by the security signal.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~portable-tool~~battery tester further comprises an internal power source configured to power the ~~tool-battery tester~~.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the receiver comprises an embedded radio frequency identification tag.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 and further comprising:  
processing circuitry operably coupled to the transmitter; and  
an external receiver operably coupled to the processing circuitry and configured to receive a theft signal transmitted from the ~~tool-battery tester~~ if the ~~tool-battery tester~~ is outside the perimeter defined by the security signal.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the external receiver and the transmitter comprise a radio frequency identification reader.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processing circuitry further comprises a memory, wherein the processing circuitry is configured to record information related to the transmitted theft signal to the memory.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to output an audible alarm when the processing circuitry receives the transmitted theft signal.

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17. (currently amended) An apparatus for preventing theft in automotive vehicle service centers comprising:

at least one transmitter configured to transmit a wireless security signal which defines a perimeter;  
at least one ~~portable tool~~battery tester for use in the automotive vehicle service centers comprising:  
a receiver configured to receive the transmitted security signal; and  
security circuitry coupled to the receiver and configured to disable the ~~portable tool~~battery tester if the ~~tool~~battery tester at least partially passes through the perimeter defined by the security signal.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the security signal comprises one of a direct infrared signal, a diffused infrared signal and a radio frequency signal.

19. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the ~~tool~~battery tester further comprises an output operably coupled to the security circuitry, wherein the security circuitry is further configured to output a continuous audible noise if the ~~tool~~battery tester at least partially passes through the perimeter defined by the security signal.

20. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17 and further comprising processing circuitry operably coupled to the transmitter, the processing circuitry including an external receiver configured to receive a theft signal transmitted from the ~~portable tool~~battery tester if the ~~portable tool~~battery tester at least partially passes through the perimeter defined by the security signal.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the processing circuitry further comprises a memory, wherein the processing circuitry is configured to record information related to the transmitted theft signal to the memory.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to sound an alarm when the processing circuitry receives the transmitted theft signal.

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23. (currently amended) A method of preventing theft in automotive vehicle service centers, the method comprising:

transmitting a wireless security signal which defines a perimeter;

receiving the transmitted security signal with a receiver embedded in a ~~portable tool~~battery tester

for use in an automotive vehicle service center; and

disabling the ~~tool-battery tester~~ when the ~~tool-battery tester~~ is outside the perimeter defined by the security signal.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23 and further comprising receiving a theft signal transmitted from the ~~portable tool~~battery tester when the ~~portable tool~~battery tester is outside the perimeter defined by the security signal.